

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM
2010 FACT SHEET

1. **GLOBAL:** Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) affects mostly young adults in their most productive years, and is the leading killer of people who are HIV infected. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. Each year there are approximately nine million new cases of TB disease and nearly two million TB-related deaths.
2. **NATIONAL:** Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for more than a decade. In 2009, a total of 11,545 cases were reported nationwide, representing an 11% decrease from 12,906 cases in 2008. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,599 cases) to 60% of the national total (6,854 cases) in 2009.
3. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County reported 222 cases of active TB in 2010 (case rate of 6.9 per 100,000 population). Although essentially unchanged from the total of 223 cases in 2009, this represents a 16% decrease from 2008 (264 cases). The number of cases in 2010 was 53% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades.
4. **AGE:** The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 42, and ranged from <12 months old to 93 years old. Persons aged 25 to 64 made up the largest group of TB cases with 142 (64%). However, the 65 and older age group (43 cases) had a higher case rate (11.4 per 100,000) compared with the 25-to-44 year old age group (8.6 per 100,000) and the 45-to-64 year old age group (8.1 per 100,000).
5. **RACE/ETHNICITY:** The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 116 (52%) Hispanics, 73 (33%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 20 (9%) non-Hispanic whites and 13 (6%) non-Hispanic blacks.
6. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 72% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 160 foreign-born cases, 77 (48%) were from Asia (including 41 from the Philippines, and 13 from Vietnam), 64 (40%) were from Mexico, and 6 (4%) were from Africa.
7. **CHILDREN:** There were 8 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (4% of all cases). This represents a 79% decrease from 1993 (39 cases), and a 47% decrease from the annual 5-year average from 2002-2006 (15 cases). TB in children of this age is of concern because it often represents recent transmission of infection from adults to children.
8. **DRUG RESISTANCE:** TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 100% of the 183 culture-proven cases in San Diego. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 20% (n=36) of these specimens. Multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strains were found in 1 (0.5%) of the cases. During 1999-2010, a total of 44 MDR TB cases were reported in San Diego and none were extensively drug-resistant (XDR). Of the 44 cases, 82% (36) were among persons born outside the US. Vigilance in diagnosing MDR TB and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
9. **BOVIS:** Among the 183 culture-proven cases in 2010, a total of 20 (11%) had disease from *M. bovis*, including 1 child less than 15 years old. This represents the fourth consecutive year of a sustained decrease from the annual 5-year average, 2002-2006, of 30 cases of TB due to *M. bovis*. Of 55 culture-proven cases in 2010 among persons born in Mexico, 14 (25%) had *M. bovis*. Disease due to *M. bovis*, also known as bovine tuberculosis, is usually contracted through the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. Person-to-person transmission is also believed to occur.
10. **HIV:** HIV is the strongest known risk factor for TB disease once TB infection occurs. During 2010, a total of 15 (7%) of the 222 persons reported with TB were also co-infected with HIV. HIV test results were known for 177 (80%) of the 222 persons reported with TB; however, this percentage increased to 93% among 18-55 year olds, the age group accounting for nearly three-quarters of co-infected cases.